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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

The Poetical Works of John Skelton: with Notes, and some Account of the Author and his Writings. By the Rev. Alexander Dyce. 2 vols. 8vo. London: Rodd.

SKELTON owes his importance as a poet to the age in which he lived. Poetry had died in the hands of Lydgate and the successors of Chaucer, and only revived with Surrey and Wyatt. The intermediate period is represented by John Skelton almost alone, and he shone in a style which was peculiarly his own. Not much of Skelton's poetry deserves preserving for its intrinsic beauty. It is true that there is graphic picturing in "Elynour Rummyng," though coarse; that there are beautiful passages in "Phyllip Sparowe," and in the "Garlande of Laurell"; but they hardly compensate for a mass of obscurity and fanciful conceits. Still, as we have just said, Skelton was the poet of his age, and is an important link in the historical chain of English literature. He appeared at the dawn of what may be called the *rénaissance* of English poetry; when it was just throwing off the shackles of a dark age, and began to revel in liberty. The muse of Skelton seems to defy all rule and measure; it gambols with the ease and the rudeness of the untaught and wanton colt. Hence that facility of crowding rhyme upon rhyme; that unscrupulous boldness of language; that fearlessness which spares and avoids nothing. These are the characteristics which give Skelton a claim to the title of poet; and it was most desirable that we should have a complete, correct, and authentic library edition of his works. No one could have been chosen more capable of performing this task in a satisfactory manner than Mr. Dyce.

John Skelton was, as it is well known, the tutor of king Henry VIII. He was born in or soon after the year 1460, was apparently a native of Norfolk, was educated at the university, and became a good scholar. His character has been little understood in modern times by people who have imagined that the defects of his writings were characteristic of the man and not of the times in which he lived. Some have set him down as a dissolute ribald; others seem to have considered him as the court-jester. Both characters are equally wide of the mark. His facility of writing and rhyming appears to have obtained for him from the university of Oxford the title or degree of laureate, which would hardly have been granted to a ribald or a jester. He was in favour at court under Henry VII.; was in holy orders, and benefited in his native county. Indeed, his writings shew that his bent was not towards ribaldry, but towards satire; and his most violent satirical writings, those against Wolsey, and the ecclesiastical corruptions of the time, are, on the whole, his best productions; they, at least, have an interest for the modern reader, independent of all other considerations. They must have been felt with fearful acuteness at the time they were first published. He did not, however, live to see their result in the Reformation.

It is clear, however, that Skelton very soon after his death had obtained a certain reputation for buffoonery, or rather for coarse jokes, which

were quite in character with the time at which he lived. In the first half of the sixteenth century was published a singular book entitled "Merrie Tales . . . made by Master Skelton Poet Laureate," which Mr. Dyce has judiciously reprinted with the poet's works. The words of the title do not mean that he was the author of the tales, but that he was the subject of them. They are, however, evident fabrications as applied to him, inasmuch as many of them occur in much older story-books. Perhaps Skelton may have been the hero of one or two of the least extraordinary of these tales, such as the following, which is characteristic enough of the spirit that appears in his writings:—

"How the fryer asked leane of Skelton to preach at Dys, which Skelton wold not grant.

"There was a fryer y^e whych dydde come to Skelton to haue licence to preach at Dys. What woulde you preache there? sayde Skelton: doe not you thinke that I am sufficienre to preache there in myne owne cure? Syr, sayde the freere, I am the limyter of Norwych, and once a yare one of our place dothe vse to preache wyth you, to take the deuocion of the people; and if I may haue your good wil, so bee it, or els I will come and preach against your will, by the autoritie of the bishope of Rome, for I haue hys bulles to preach in euery place, and therfore I wyll be there on Sondaye nexte cummyng. Come not there, freere, I doo counseil thee, sayd Skelton. The Sundaye nexte followynge Skelton layde watch for the comyng of the freere: and as sone as Skelton had knowledge of the freere, he went into the pulpet to preach. At last the freere dyd come into the churche with the bishoppe of Romes bulles in hys hande. Skelton then sayd to all hys parische, See, see, see, and poyneted to the fryere. All the parish gased on the frere. Then sayde Skelton, Maisters, here is as wonderfull a thyng as euer was seene: you all doe knowe that it is a thyng daylye seene, a bulle dothe begette a cafe; but here, contrarye to all nature, a calfe hath gotten a bulle; for thy fryere, beeyng a calfe, hath gotten a bulle of the byshoppe of Rome. The fryere, beyng ashamed, woulde never after that time presume to preach at Dys."

The following scrap of the poem entitled "Phyllip Sparowe" may be taken as a specimen of Skelton's sportive style:

"Was never byrdie in cage
More gentle of corage
In doyngis his homage
Vnto his souteraine.
Alas, I say agayne,
Deth hath departed vs twayne!
The false cat hath the slayne:
Farewell, Phyllip, adew!
Our Lorde thy soule reskew!
Farewell without restore,
Farewell for cuermore!"

"And it were a Jewe,
It wold make one rew,
To se my sorow new.
These vylanous false cattes
Were made for myse and ratess,
And not for byrdes smale.
Alas, my face waxeth pale,
Tellynge this pyetyus tale,
How my byrdie so fayre,
That was wont to repaire,
And go in at my spayre,

And crepe in at my gore
Of my gowne before,
Flyckerynge with his wynges!
Alas, my hert it stynghes,
Remembryng pretty thynges!
Alas, myne hert it sleth
My Phyllippes dolefull deth,
Whan I remembre it,
How pretely it wold syt,
Many tymes and ofte,
Upon my fynger aloft!
I played with him tyttell tattyll,
And fed him with my spattyll,
With his byll betwixn my lippes;
It was my pretty Phyllipes!
Many a pretty kusse
Had I of his swete muse;
And now the cause is thus,
That he is slayne me fro,
To my great paine and wo."

The personification of Riot, from the "Bowge of Courte," is worthy of Chaucer.

"Wyt that came Ryotte, russhyne all at ones,
A rusty gallande, to-ragged and to-rente;
And on the borde he whirled a payre of bones,
Quater treye dewes he clatered as he wente;
Now haue at all, by saynte Thomas of Kente!
And euer he threwe and kyst I wote nere what:
His heire was growen thorowre out his hat.

Thenne I behelde how he dysgysyd was:
His heide was heuy for watchinge ouer nyghte,
His eyen blereid, his face shone lyke a glas;
His gowne so shorte that it ne couer myghte
His rumpe, he wente so all for somer lyghte;
His hose was garded wylth a lyste of grene,
Yet at the knee they were broken, I wene.
His cote was checked with patches rede and blewe;
Of Kyrkby Kendall was his shorte demye;
And by he sange, In fayth, decon ther crewe;
His elbowe bare, he ware his gare so nye;
His nose a droppynge, his lypes were ful drye;
And by his syde his whynarde and his pouche,
The devyl myghte daunce therin for ony crowde."

The collection of Skelton's poems contains a multitude of small pieces of a very diversified nature. Sometimes he abuses a rival, at others he celebrates the deeds of his countrymen, there he vilifies their enemies, and especially the Scots, who appear to have been particular objects of his enmity. The interlude of "Magnyfycence" exhibits in some parts considerable dramatic and poetic powers. The "Bowge of Courte" is a spirited satire on contemporary vices. In "Phyllip Sparowe," Skelton pictures the artless sorrow of a gentle maiden robbed of her favourite by the ferocity of a four-legged monster. "Elynour Rummyng" is a striking, though coarse, picture of the female company at a village alehouse, all crowding to partake of Dame Elynour's liquor, in their eagerness for which they pawn the more necessary and useful articles of domestic economy. Times have changed less than we imagine; the gin-shops are not altogether peculiar to modern times. The following extract will serve as a specimen of this almost unique production:—

"Some renne till they swete,
Bryngye wylth them malte or whete,
And dame Elynour entrete
To byrlie them of the best;
Than cometh an other gest;
She swered by the rode of rest,
Her lypes are so drye,
Without drynke she must dye;
Therefore fyll it by and by,
And haue here a pecke of ry.
Anone cometh another,
As drye as the other,
And wylth her doth bryngye
Mele, salte, or other thyngye,
Her harcest gyrdle, her weddynge ryngye,

To pay for her scot.
As cometh to her lot,
Som bryngeth her husbandes hood,
Because the ale is good;
Another brought her his cap
To offer to the ale tap,
Wyt flaxe and wyt towne;
And some brought sowe downe;
Wyt Hey, and wyt, howe,
Syt we downe a rowe,
And drynke tyll we blowe,
And pipe tyll tyrlowe!
Some layde to pledge
Theyr hatchet and theyr wedge,
Theyr hekell and theyr rele,
Theyr rooke, theyr spynnyng whele;
And some went so narrowe,
They layde to pledge theyr wharowe,
Theyr rybskyn and theyr spindell,
Theyr nedell and theyr thymbell:
Here was scanz thyrf,
Whan they made suchyf.
Theyr thrust was so great,
They asked neuer for mete,
But drynke, styl drynke,
And let the cat wynke,
Let vs washe our gommes
From the drye crommes."

To our taste, the most interesting pieces, as pictures of the time and monuments of history, are the attacks upon Wolsey and the churchmen, published under the titles of "Speke, Parrot," and "Why come ye nat to Courte?" In the latter of these he speaks of the cardinal in language like the following :—

"He bereth the kyng on hand,
That he must pyl his lande,
To make his cofers ryche;
But he laythe all in the dyche,
And vseth suche abusyon,
That in the conclousyon
All commeth to confusyon.
Perceyue the cause why,
To tell the trouth playlyn,
He is so ambycious,
So shambles, and so vicyous,
And so sterpycious,
And so moche obliuous
From whens that he came,
Than he falleth into a *cœcum*,
Whiche, truly to expresse,
Is a forgetfulnesse,
Or wylfull blundnesse,
Wherwith the Sodomites
Lost theyr inward syghtes,
The Gommoryans also
Were brought to deedly wo,
As Scripture recordis:
A cœcile cordis,
In the Latyne synge we,
Liber nos, Domine!
But this madd Amalecke,
Lyke to a Mamelek,
He regardeth lordes
No more than potshordes;
He is in suche elacyon
Of his exaltacyon,
And the supportacyon
Of our souerayne lorde,
That, God to recorde,
He ruleth all at wyl,
Without reason or skyll;
How be it the primordyl
Of his wretched original,
And his base progeny,
And his greysy genealogy,
He came of the sank royall,
That was cast out of a bochers stall.
But how euer he was borne,
Men wold haue the lesse scorne,
If he coulde consyder
His byrth and rowme togerider,
And call to his mynde
How noble and how kynde
To him he hathe founde
Our souerayne lorde, chyfe gronde
Of all this prelacye,
And set hym nobly
In great autorytate,
Out from a low dege,
Whiche he can nat se.

* * * * *
No man dare come to the speche
Of this gentell Iacke breche,
Of what estate he be,
Of spirituall dynyghte,
Nor duke of hys degré,
Nor marques, erle, nor lorde;
Whiche shrewdly doth accordre,
Thys he borne so base
All noble men shulde outface,

His countynaunce lyke a kaysere.
My lorde is nat at layser;
Syr, ye must tary a stounde,
Tyll better layser be bounde;
And, syr, ye must daunce attendance,
And take pacienc sufferaunce,
For my lordes grace.
Hath nowe no tyme nor space
To speke with you as yet.
And thus shall syt,
Chuse them syt or flyt,
Stande, walke, or ryde,
And his layser abyde
Parchaunce halfe a yere,
And yet neuer the nere."

We are surprised at this freedom of speech in a court-poet of the despotic reign of Henry the Eighth.

So much for Skelton. We have said little of his editor. Mr. Dyce's judgment and accuracy are too well known by many excellent editions of our older poets to need our commendations. John Skelton has fallen into good hands; and the old texts are purified and rendered intelligible by laborious collations and copious and judicious annotations. We will add only, that the two volumes are beautifully printed, and that they must necessarily find a place in every poetical library.

Fish, how to choose, and how to dress. By Piscator, Author of the "Practical Angler," &c. &c. 12mo, pp. 296. London, Longmans.

PISCATOR is no book-maker; and not even Angler enough to say with Mrs. Glasse, "first catch your fish," or hare! No, he is still more practical,—a man who has eaten much and many fish—who, removed from the refinements of the most *recherché cuisines*, has tested the favourite and the unfavoured species, and who, on the authority of his own palate, pronounces à la Kitchener upon many of the fishy tribe which do not, as well as those which do, figure in cookery guides. The rules for choosing, i.e. observing the healthy condition of good fish, fresh fish, and fish in season, are plain and excellent; and the danger of partaking of several kinds when out of season is pointed out more distinctly than we remember to have seen it anywhere else. Thus, the purchaser learns how to pick out the most wholesome and toothsome cod, haddock, whiting, eel, perch, bream, salmon, turbot, brill, flounder, mullet, carp, pike, mackerel, herring, pilchard, dory, skate, &c. &c. &c.; and then, the best modes of preparing them for the table. The list is very full, noticing at least twice as many dishes of fishes as are to be found in all preceding cookery-books. Generally speaking, "few fish, except in frosty weather, can be kept good for above two or three days at the utmost, without the assistance of salt or some other artificial aid. Some, indeed, in warm weather, become tainted even in the course of a single day after they are taken out of the water, though in many this may be prevented to a considerable extent, by removing the intestines within an hour or two after they are caught. This occurs particularly in the smaller species of the cod tribe, such as the whiting, or whiting-pout, as also in the haddock; as the livers of all these fishes contain great quantity of oil, which in warm weather quickly imparts a rancid and disagreeable taste to the whole fish. Many other fishes also, that will be noticed hereafter, may be kept good a considerable time, particularly in moderate weather, after being gutted, which, if omitted, will cause the fish to become tainted in less than one half the time it would have done had this necessary precaution been adopted. Again, some fish that are excellent when salted and dried, as the torsk; or, even when only

slightly powdered with salt for a day or two previously to their being dressed, as a whitening pollack for instance, are both watery, soft, and insipid, when cooked perfectly fresh; whilst in others, the salt produces so contrary an effect, as to extract every kind of flavour but its own, or, what is worse, imparts a rank and disagreeable taste, as it almost invariably does when applied in any considerable quantity for the purpose of preserving soles, and most other species of flat fish, for any length of time. Some particular kinds of fishes, as mackerel, herrings, or pilchards, cannot possibly be brought to table too soon after being taken from their native element; on which account it falls to the lot of but very few to partake of either of these kinds of fishes in their greatest perfection."

We are told that the cod genus are the easiest of digestion of all fish; and the *burbot* is the only species which is found in fresh waters, such as the Severn, Trent, Cam, and several rivers in Yorkshire and Durham, "but it does not seem to occur in any single river that discharges its waters into the British Channel. It is known by the names of *burbot*, *burbolt*, and *eel-pout*."—The whiting, though so good, is a very tender fish and speedily decomposes; whilst the liver, if not extracted soon after it is taken, particularly in hot weather, soon imparts a disagreeable taint to the fish. In order that the flakes of a whiting may shell out in their proper pearly whiteness, the fish ought to stiffen after death, which gives an increased firmness to the muscle; but yet, if we examine a quantity of these fishes, all perfectly fresh, we shall often find that there is not a single stiff fish amongst the whole lot. There are two ways, however, by which a fisherman may cause a whiting to stiffen; one is by piercing the brain of the fish with a knife the moment it is taken, which kills it instantly, and the fish will then die with its mouth wide open, which, whenever a fish does, it always stiffens. This we may often see in a number of cod exposed for sale; when you rarely see any with their jaws expanded that are not perfectly stiff. Another mode of producing this stiffness, and a still more certain one, is to cast the fish into a small pail of water just sufficient to cover it, when it will expire in a far shorter time than when out of the water altogether. How, or why this is, I must leave to wiser heads than mine to determine: but many fish may be killed in this way, particularly the small Southampton smelts or atherines, which, smaller than minnows, are caught for bait for whiting, and which, if killed by being cast in a small quantity of still water, remain firm and fit to be fished with for a whole day: but if allowed to expire in the air, would become soft and unfit for the purpose in the course of only an hour or two. And now how to choose a whiting. Always buy your whittings quite fresh, and having gutted them, you may in the winter months keep them for two or three days in a cool place; but never purchase an uncleaned whiting, unless it be perfectly fresh out of the water. When it is so, the colours on the back, which is a pale brown with a pinkish cast, and the white silvery belly, should be distinctly seen through the transparent slime: when the fish grows stale, the slime becomes thick, and the scales assume a leaden dingy cast, or coming off the fish, give it the appearance of being water-soaked—when you perceive the latter appearance, the fish is not fit to be eaten."

The foregoing extract is a fair example of the writer's instructions for the fish-market; and a more useful housewife or cook's manual we

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could not recommend. The following is another specimen:—

"Now for our directions for choosing mackerel; and first as to freshness. The back should be of a pale and bright green, and the black bars distinctly marked; these in the males are nearly straight, whilst those of the females are in a waving line. These lines also denote the season of the fish, for when they are out of condition an horizontal band of the same colour runs along a little above the lateral line, and joins these bands together from the tail to just below the termination of the second back fin. This is termed by the fishermen 'the rogue's mark,' and is a sure indication that the fish is in bad order, and partially or wholly disappears as the fish improves in health. The sides and belly should look exceedingly bright and silvery, varying with blushes of pink, particularly about the pectoral fins; the body should be stiff, and the skin devoid of wrinkle. When the fish becomes stale, the green on the uppersides assumes first a darker and a duller cast, and then a blue colour, the pearly pink tinge vanishes, a dark shade appears about the lateral line; the slime, if it be not dried up, assumes a coppery tinge, the body loses its stiffness, the skin becomes wrinkled, and oftentimes the bowels protrude, though the latter is often found to occur from pressure, when the fish is closely packed, even after being very recently taken; but happen from what cause it may, a burst fish should always be rejected. The best proof of condition is, first, the absence of the rogue's mark, just before alluded to; a deep body, rising well behind the shoulder and sinking equally so below, with a general fulness of body throughout: a long thin-made mackerel, with a belly like the blade of a knife, is ever an ill tasted fish; and yet these are often known to fetch the highest prices; being a few blind stragglers that have been separated from the main shoal, and are often the fish the fishermen first fall in with. There is, however, a great difference in the shoals, as also in the fish contained in the same shoal, some being in good order at the same time that others are directly the reverse. In the spring, mackerel are by some said to be the best, but this is decidedly a mistake; for at that season it is difficult amongst great numbers to find any that are in even decent order, the rogue's mark being then found predominant amongst the greater portion of them. At such times, however, owing to their emaciated condition and the usual coolness of the weather at that season, the spring mackerel will generally keep better than those taken a month or two later. The bulk of the mackerel cannot be considered in season till June or July, and they continue good till after Christmas, though they are not usually taken in any great quantities so late in the year. Very fine catches have sometimes, however, been taken off Plymouth at that time, and the fish then taken were the finest in every respect we had ever the good fortune to meet with. We have generally found the large mackerel the best flavoured, though an opinion is abroad that they are inferior to the smaller ones. This, we imagine, arises from the erroneous supposition that the horse-mackerel—which in fact is the scad, and one of the worst of the whole finny tribe—is merely an overgrown mackerel; whereas the scad is a totally different fish, and never attaining to anything like the bulk of a full-grown mackerel. The best mackerel are those taken with a hook and line; although the latter, being often found full of food, will not keep good so long as those taken with nets, unless they are gutted soon after they are caught."

Another page, relating to eels, may be quoted in further proof:—

"Eels are taken both in fresh water and in the sea. Those taken in fresh water are usually the best, but sometimes they acquire a rank taste from particular weeds; sometimes, indeed, to such a degree as to render them wholly unfit to be eaten. The silver eel and greg are of equal goodness; the broad-nosed eel is far inferior to either of them. Eels are in season all through the year, though they are considered at their worst about April or May. The largest are best, and on this account the silver eel being usually found of larger dimensions than the greg, is by many considered as the better fish. It is useless to offer any remarks in this place on the exquisite flavour of eels of all kinds, which is too well known and appreciated to require any comments from us; and few if any fish are capable of being prepared in such a variety of modes. These fish are often brought alive to market, and when this is the case there can be no doubt of their freshness. When dead, if the slime looks bright and the skin full, the fish is fresh; but if the skin looks dry and wrinkled, it is stale. The best way to kill an eel is to divide the spine just behind the head, without severing it from the body, when the fish will die almost instantaneously; yet if the head be entirely severed, the body will continue to move about and exhibit signs of life, sometimes even for hours afterwards. How or why this should be, we must leave to wiser heads than ours to determine. Such, however, is the fact; though to our slender understanding we confess the matter to be altogether incomprehensible."

The following is a curious piece of information:—"In Cornwall a singular mode of curing conger once prevailed, which was, merely to slit the congers in halves, and, without any further preparation, to hang them up in a kind of shambles erected for that purpose, when the flies blowing on the fish, the progeny would devour all the parts liable to decomposition, whilst the residue, being dried in the sun, became in this manner fit for use; and, when perfectly cured, were exported to Spain and Portugal. There they were ground into powder; and with this preparation the natives of those countries used to thicken their soups."

We were never aware of the value of fly-blows in the art of cookery before!!

Of the carp Piscator says, "the head, it seems, is considered the best part: such, according to a celebrated French writer on the art of cookery, being '*le morceau d'honneur*,' and which, for that reason, he adds, '*doit être offerte à la personne la plus considérée*.' Next to the head the back is considered the best part."

Against this dictum we beg to enter a protest, and to declare the thin belly-part to be far superior either to head, back, or tail. Of the tench we know little; but Piscator tells us, it is distinguishable from the rest of the carp tribe by the slimy coating, like that of the eel, that covers its body. It is a delicious fish when in prime order, being, in our humble opinion, by far the best of the whole carp kind; added to which, it is capable of being cooked in a great variety of ways. Stewed tench, particularly if associated with a few large fresh-water eels, forms one of the most delicious dishes the art of cookery can be exercised upon; whilst very few fresh-water fishes can be compared with them either plain boiled or fried; and they also make excellent water souches. During the winter-months these fish ooze or bury themselves in the mud, and seldom make their appearance till the mild weather begins to set in: they spawn about the latter end of May or the

beginning of June, at which time they are out of season; but they again become fit for the table by the middle of July, and are at their best about August."

Piscator does not appear to be acquainted with the recent discoveries respecting the infancy of salmon: at page 113, he speaks of the parr as being like a small trout, not aware that it is the earliest development of the salmon-fry. But we have done enough to illustrate this volume, which ought to adorn every kitchen shelf,* and would only call attention to its enthusiasm in favour of crab-sauce (hardly seen in London cookery), to which we, *nostro pericolo*, would add muscle ditto, excellent alone or mixed with oysters, yet also so rarely employed; and with regard to the cooking advice, would sum up the whole with—

First catch a good cook.

Whitefriars; or, the Days of Charles II.: a Historical Romance. 3 vols. London, Colburn.

If ever there were a stirring romance, this is one: it is full of action after action from first to last. It begins with the assassination of a great nobleman, a prisoner in the Tower, on the night when the terrible fire of London began, and it is throughout (some sixteen years) connected with the fate of his orphan son, from the age of five to twenty years, amid singular and incredible adventures. Of robberies, imprisonments, escapes, conflicts, plots, murders, conspiracies, treasons, and executions unceasing, there are *quant. suff.* to satisfy the most inordinate appetite; and when we name a few of the principal characters, we fancy our readers will agree with us, that there are actors now for any three volumes that ever were printed; for we have Charles II., and Nell Gwynne, and Queen Eleanor, and the Dukes of York, and Monmouth, and Rochester, and Chiffinch, and Shaftesbury, and Buckingham, and Ormonde, and Ossory, and Lord Howard, and Danby, and Pepys, and Hampden, and Sidney, and Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, and Dr. Tongue, and Friar Coleman, and Colonel Blood, and Titus Oates, and Claude Duval (the last three very prominent), together with minor satellites of every kind and description. The court and Alsatia, high licentiousness and low, a perpetual readiness for brawls, swords, and pistols, as often out as in, and an utter lawlessness and recklessness of life, are the author's characteristics of the latter years of the reign of the second Charles. The mother of the hero is an incarnation of female demonism: the Countess of Macclesfield was a lamb when compared with this hyena. Her connexion with Blood is a monstrous one; but, indeed, nearly the whole of the ingredients,

"Like a hell-broth, boil and bubble;" and there is wickedness, desperation, and fiendishness, in almost all the individuals brought upon the busy and tumultuous scene, which never halts for half a dozen pages without some new development of evil. The interest which such materials afford is well kept up, and there is a dash about the onward progress of events which leaves little room to reflect either on their utter want of probability (such as the

* We see, with pleasure, that the Queen and Priace Albert have set the example of establishing domestics' libraries at Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace, by giving severally 100/-, and 50/-, for the purchase of books and periodicals. Of course Piscator and the *Literary Gazette* must be foremost on the list; and every other nobleman and gentleman, as bound in loyalty, taste, and common-sense, will follow the example by having both publications in constant use for instruction and reference.—*Ed. Lit. Gaz.*

letter in the prisoner's possession), in whole, in part, or in detail.

The witty and profligate king is made much blacker than ever, and, falling in love with Sydney's daughter "Aurora" (what a name for that age! but, like "Charivari," we presume an oversight of the modern school of authorship), sticks not at rape, murder, and guilt tenfold more atrocious than that of Angelo in *Measure for Measure*. They say, give a dog a bad name and hang him up: with the writer it is, give a king bad name and mang his memory. The dreadful unnaturalness of Lady Howard, and the cold brutal villainy of Blood, the more than infamous infamy of Titus Oates, and the universal want of feeling, humanity, and principle, cause the soul to revolt against the delineation of these worthless beings; and, in truth, if they were all beheaded, pressed to death, or hanged, drawn, and quartered, we could not distinguish one on whose fate to "drop the tear of sensibility." The Ryehouse Plot, Blood's attempt upon the regalia, and other matters, are described with much spirit; and, as we have stated, those who love to sup not on horrors but on most stirring and striking incidents—swords, daggers, pistols, fires, flights, pursuits, skirmishes, *et hoc genus omne*, will find entertainment to the full extent of appetite in the novel of *Whitefriars*.

The Laurringtons; or, Superior People. By Mrs. Trollope. 3 vols. Longman and Co. At the conclusion the author says, if her Laurringtons are not recognised as portraits, it will not be because the sketches are not after nature, but because she did not wish to make many of them too like the originals; and, with one exception, she permits those who know no better to call all the rest creatures of the imagination. It is with something of humiliation that we confess ourselves to belong to the "know-no-better" class; for, in truth, we cannot consider these Laurringtons to be natural portraits at all, saving their mother, who is the genuine living representative of a Pin. The others are all caricatures, drawn in Mrs. Trollope's broad style, and think, speak, and behave as no rational creatures ever did. The Gog, Brother William, has some clever traits; but Mary and Araminta are utterly extravagant. Aunt Watts herself is not of the school of nature; and as we have so much more of them than of all the others, we may repeat our opinion, that the staple of the novel is rather forced than *vraisemblable*. We must add, also, that little interest is created either by the people or the situations, and that the best of the book is in the sketches of some of the less prominent silhouettes or machine likenesses. In these, in the Mastermanns, the Baron's mother, Cornelia the susceptible beauty, &c., we find some able traits; but over all the spirit of exaggeration prevails, and, whilst it banishes credibility, mars the merriment which would result from the exposure of superior people, who were not made so ridiculously to expose themselves. We have only farther to notice two bits of information, among others, we have got by reading the *Laurringtons*; the first is, that a high aristocratic gentleman trims his nails in the presence of his equally aristocratic sister; and the second, that "purple-black hair on men is adored by ladies."

Men and Women; or, Manorial Rights. By the Author of the "Adventures of Susan Hopley." 3 vols. Saunders and Otley.

"MEN and WOMEN," in the school of authorship to which this work pertains, being freely

interpreted, means, low rogues, molecatchers, poachers, thieves, ladies of easy virtue, seducers, and murderers; though there may be a few worthy and respectable characters introduced to help on the minor business and be a sort of make-weight against the general depravity. Susan Hopley, having been dramatised, has been quite the rage on the Surrey side of theatricals; and as there can be few better judges of the truth of the limning of such persons and doings than the majority of the audiences in these localities, we are disposed to defer to their decision on the subject. In elder, and in our opinion better, times, the humblest walks of life were not deemed improper to be delineated by the ablest pens and pencils. We look back to these, and in some instances find a coarseness and grossness common to the manners and language of the age; but the generality are untainted with vulgarity; in no instance are we disgusted by representations of the baser sort, in the very sinks of their infamy, and made even more revolting than they are reality for the sake of effect.

In the volumes before us there appears to be a perfect intimacy with the genus Sykes; but its members outherd Herod, and revolt us by their horrid language even more than by their atrocious conduct. For example (and we feel a repugnance to quotation), the oaths and blasphemy of a dying wretch within a few hours of his dissolution, cannot be patiently read:—

"How are you now, Burnley?" inquired Mr. Groves, in a friendly voice.

"What! is it you back?" said Burnley. "Why, I'm blasted bad; what brought you back so soon?" &c. . . When absolutely in the agonies of death, he tells his friend Joel that he is poisoned by Groves, but "he'll burn in hell for it yet, d—d scoundrel that he is!"

Joel wishes to soothe him, for the detail of his wrongs "was mingled with furious oaths and cries of agony, that satisfied Joel he was delirious."

"D—n me if I think you believe me!" exclaimed Burnley. "Run for your life, and fetch the doctor—be off and make the best of your legs, or d—n me if I don't come out of my grave and stick to you like a leech, of a night when you're"—

It may be that there are such appalling death-beds as this; and that the vile terms, only too common to blackguards in their daily slang, may be used on the edge of the grave. But we believe this would be an exception to the rule, and at any rate we are sure that every good feeling, good taste, good principle, and moral and religious end, are violated by the printing and publishing of such shocking language, at all times offensive, but absolutely blasphemous when uttered under such awful circumstances. Nor are we more reconciled to the outrage upon decency, by perusing, in perhaps the adjoining page, such feeling, sentimentality, and mock-moralising, as the annexed:

"Vincent Groves [going to poison the sick man] looked down upon the graves, and thought of the grave-digger that, ere the moon grew round, would be at work there, making a place of rest for one whom he should send him. It had been better he had looked aloft upon the fair worlds rolling in the blue ether, and their bright suns looking down upon him—the eye of the universe perusing his secret soul—and the fore-knowing mind his fate—he might haply have read it there, for there it was inscribed amongst the eternal laws—unchangeable—not that he should sin, but that he should suffer if he sinned. The train that led from the sin to

its chastisement was laid from the beginning; but it rested with his own free will to fire it or not. But Vincent Groves was never taught to read that scroll,—few are, the more's the pity! free scholars and self-taught, the most of those that read it with a knowing eye and imbibe it in their souls. Blind with ignorance, he groped along, not seeing that wickedness is folly, not wisdom; nor discerning the adamantine links that enchain our actions to their consequences, and entail the penalty inseparably on the crime; and as his eyes were blind, so his ears were deaf, or he would have listened to the strain of the rippling stream as he walked beside it, and to the zephyrs that played amongst the trees—each leaf a voice—and to the song of the beetle's wings, and the merry chirp of the field-cricket, and to the shriek of the grey owl that called to him from the ivy-grown tower, and to the universal music of the silent night, that chanted low in one harmonious chorus, *Hold!*"

As far as we can understand this maudlin cant, it is vicious folly; but most it seems to be sheer nonsense: and we leave it to the "men and women" of the Hopley kind.

The value of a bad shilling is a very laughable story, and worth all the rest of the author's inventions.

Essai sur l'Education des Animaux, le Chien pris pour type. Par M. Adrien Leonard. 8vo, pp. 436. Lille, Leleux.

This work is certainly a curiosity in many respects; but the most prominent of which are, that such an elaborate treatise should be demanded by an apparently secondary subject; and next, that Lille, as a provincial town, should be able to send forth a work so remarkably well got up, being both correctly and elegantly printed, and on what our tasteful neighbours would call *papier de luxe*, with wide margins and spaces.

The author, it appears, has distinguished himself by the training of two dogs, Braque and Phylax by name, which have excited the admiration of Paris and the provinces; and it is apparently to this success that we are indebted to the author for endeavouring to establish the education of animals on philosophical grounds. This philosophy is based upon the researches of Frederic Cuvier on the instinct and intelligence of animals; and the author has taken advantage of the celebrated physiologist Flourens' report thereon, to draw largely for materials. These researches, as connected, however, with French metaphysics, are not generally known in this country. They date as far back as Descartes, who advocated the pure automatism of beasts, and whose doctrines obtained so much favour that it was impossible to call oneself Cartesian and not to admit that all animals were machines. Buffon, like Descartes, granted to animals life and sentiment, but added to these the consciousness of their actual existence, refusing to them the powers of thought and reflection, and the conscience of their past existence. The positive study by observation of the internal faculties of animals is considered to have originated with Buffon and Reaumur. This latter admitted intelligence as belonging even to the insect tribe; but neither Buffon nor he, nor their successor, Condillac, distinguished intelligence from instinct. Condillac, in his *Traité des Animaux*, which was principally directed against Buffon, argued that animals perceive like man, that they possess memory and ideas, and that they compare and judge; but he considers instinct as the habit of intelligence. M. Leroy, the author of *Lettres philosophiques sur les Animaux*,

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viewed instinct as raising itself by repetition, and the exercise of memory, to intelligence. This latter work is considered as the most profound study which was made before Cuvier's time of the intellectual faculties of animals. The author developed the manifestation of the powers of perception and of memory in animals—how experience rectifies their judgment, and attention and the habit of reflection extend their intelligence. It remained for Cuvier to separate instinct from intelligence, and to consider the first as a primitive force or power, like sensibility or irritability, and the latter as founded on experience; and this is the doctrine advocated by Flourens, and adopted by the author of the work before us. It is opposed to the views of Gall and Spurzheim, who consider instinct as a propagated form of intelligence; the more easily handed down as the faculties of the animal are limited, as we see the sporting attributes of dogs handed down hereditarily, as well as the building powers of birds; and the more readily effaced where intelligence is extended, as in children, who first preserve existence by an instinct, but in a very brief time by intelligence.

Having admitted, then, the view of the matter adopted by Cuvier and Flourens, the author proceeds to discuss the faculties of animals and their senses, and then arrives at his practical point, to shew how the education of animals is to be guided by a proper knowledge of instincts and intelligence. We do not see that these rules are much affected, whether we consider instinct to be a blind impulse, as many philosophers in this country have also done; or whether we look upon it as intelligence, modified by a transmitted and hereditary habit, forced upon animals by their wants, as argued by Condillac; or springing from an original mental constitution, as argued by others: but we cannot agree with the author in denying to dogs the sentiment of affection, or of love for their master. The latter part of the work is devoted to the hygiene, lodging, pathology, and diseases of dogs, and constitutes a good manual upon the subject. It is evident that the author prides himself upon extensive knowledge in these matters, and also to basing them upon philosophical and scientific grounds; and it has been a really *philozoic* present, more especially to the faithful companion of man, thus to publish the claims of animals to kind treatment, and to shew that all that has ever been obtained from them by education can be procured by mild and endearing measures, and without corporal punishment. Altogether it is a work highly creditable to its author; and his doctrines of fear paralysing intelligence and obstructing education are well worthy of the attention of those who have under their control the education of other beings besides young animals.

Letts' Diary, or Bills-due Book, and an Almanac for 1844. London, Letts and Son.

The value of these commercial and other diaries, to be obtained of various sizes and forms—32 for choice—has been so long known and so generally admitted, and the accuracy of their extensive information borne so well the test of closest scrutiny, that we are almost glad to have a peek at their perfection. In the appendix—of corrections too—up to the 1st Nov., the postal direction for India is *vid Falmouth instead of vid Southampton*; but doubtless this will be altered in future editions. We may mention, that the quality of the paper is as good as heretofore.

Murray's Colonial and Home Library.

The third number contains a moiety of Bishop Heber's interesting Indian Journal; that which no production could have been selected more fit to carry on and increase the popularity of this publication.

Wanderings of a Journeyman Tailor through Europe and the East, during the Years 1824 to 1840. By P. D. Holthaus, Journeyman Tailor, from Werdohl in Westphalia. Translated from the third German edition, by Wm. Howitt. Pp. 286. London, Longman and Co.

Just look at the whole-length frontispiece. There is a German tailor for you, with his pipe, his bludgeon, his knapsack, his sabre, and his moustaches! The original was excused from the conscription because of his too small growth; but the picture is of a hero, a Drawancisir, an ultra Stulz. *Ex pede Herculem*, says the Latin; ex P.-D. Holthaus is our translation of it; and there he is, with mosques and minarets behind him, cutting away at a stupendous fashion, with an eye sharp as the needle, threading the perilous paths of Europe, Africa, and Asia, and going through stitch like a flint among selvage men.

Whether there is such a tailor or not, we cannot say; whether, if there be, he ever beat the Wandering Jew by the vastness of his travels, as here set down, we cannot tell; and whether it is the mere disguise and fabrication of a name, to impart some novelty to a work compiled by the fireside in the library, it is out of our power to determine. In this state of doubt we care not to wade through the volume; our partial readings not having revealed to us enough of novelty to induce greater perseverance.

The Protestant Reformation in all Countries; including Sketches of the State and Prospects of the Reformed Churches. By the Rev. J. Morrison, D.D. Svo, pp. 527. London, Fishers. A LEARNED and able divine, and a Protestant of the elder school, Dr. Morison pronounces this to be "a book for critical times," and has certainly bestowed great pains upon it. Its object is to awaken all Protestants to the recently born activity of the church of Rome, and its evidently encouraged hopes of re-establishing its universal dominion; and also to the danger of Puseyism, which he considers to be a powerful ally of Rome, and the more to be dreaded as its apostles "sit in the chairs of Reformers and traduce the Reformation." "Its substantial identity with popery (he avers) is abundantly manifest from the fact, that the same weapons which must be resorted to in waging war with Rome, are equally necessary and equally available in contending with the authors of the Tracts." This is, however, no topic for us; and we have only to speak of the solid history before us as a very full, distinct, and argumentative view of the great event to the elucidation of which it is devoted,—as a protecting shield against all the evils which threaten its purity, beneficial effects, and fixity.

* The 3d Part of a *Crack about the Kirk*, circulated by means of a penny post-stamp, has reached us from Edinburgh; and as an *argumenum ad hominem* is one of the most tearing and damaging papers we ever read. By quotations from their own sermons, lectures, speeches, &c., it pitches into Dr. Chalmers, Mr. Candlish, Dr. Buchanan, and other great men of the secession; and demonstrates that such a measure has been denounced by them in the strongest terms, as destructive to the church and the morals and religion of the people. It is seldom that volumes contain so much pith, and, as it appears to us, unanswerable arguments.

The People's Edition. A Voice from the Vintage. By the Author of the "Women of England." Pp. 80. Fisher.

A good long shilling's-worth of reasoning in favour of total abstinence; and dedicated, by permission, to Father Mathew.

Wit Bought; or, the Life and Adventures of Robert Merry. By Peter Parley. Pp. 171. London, Darton and Clark.

Not the true Peter. We do not think the adventures very natural, nor the instruction deduced from them very impressive. It is a difficult thing to indite books altogether fitted for the benefit of youthful readers.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

BOTTA'S DISCOVERIES AT NINEVEH.

The following letter is the third which M. Botta, the French consul, has written on the progress of his discoveries at Chorsabad,* near Nineveh. It was accompanied by a number of drawings, which are on a rather larger scale than the preceding, and give a much higher idea of the historical importance of these discoveries. They have induced the Paris Academy of Inscriptions to request the ministers of the interior and public instruction to grant funds for the prosecution of the excavations, and also to send a draughtsman to that country, to make drawings on the spot of the bas-reliefs that are dug up, so that, at least, an accurate and detailed representation may be preserved of such as are destroyed by the influence of the atmosphere; as a certain basis for the conclusions that may be drawn from these remarkable monuments of Assyrian civilisation. M. Botta's drawings and the inscriptions will be published in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society*:

Mossul, June 2.

I return with increasing astonishment from my discoveries in Chorsabad. My operations, notwithstanding some interruptions, have again brought to light a great number of bas-reliefs and inscriptions, though I am not yet able to form any idea of the ground-plan of the building. The wall which I mentioned at the end of my second letter, has been followed for fifteen feet further in an easterly direction, but without coming to the end of it. We see on it, first, two colossal female figures, in the same dress as those which I mentioned in my first letter, and likewise armed with a sword; the heads are in perfect preservation, so that I could see that the eyes, eye-brows, and hair were dyed black; before them stand two other figures of equal dimensions, and very well preserved, only that a crack in the stone on which they are carved divides it into two pieces. One of them is a man bare-headed, with a red bandage about his forehead, the ends of which hang down on his back; his hair and beard are painted black, and are curiously braided. He wears ear-rings, rich bracelets on the upper-arm and wrists, and a sword, on the hilt of which his right arm rests. (N.B. The swords are invariably hung horizontally at the height of the hip, so that the hilt projects to some distance, and the fore-arm rests on it very conveniently.) The second figure which is opposite the others seems to represent a king; he has a tiara ornamented with red ribbons and an agraffe. His hair and beard are curled and

* A correspondent who has visited the site of these ruins has before furnished us with their true etymology. Hor-sabat, the "town in a marsh." *Khor* is an inlet of the sea, *Hor* a marsh. Since the above was written, national aid has been given to the prosecution of these interesting explorations, and the French minister of the interior has instructed M. Eugene Flandin to proceed to Mosul, and assist M. Botta in his further researches.—*Ed. L. G.*

braided like those of the preceding figure. In his right hand he has a long staff, painted red, and his left rests on his sword. His dress is embroidered all over, and on it there is a sort of scarf, which hangs down below the sword. I have drawn only the upper half of the body, because the lower part of the stone slab has fallen down, and I had not time to have it set up again. Otherwise the slab is in good condition, the details are perfectly well preserved, and I shall send the two figures to Paris.

The wall which runs eastward from the northern end of the second passage contains a war-chariot, like that of which I sent a drawing in my second letter; it likewise contains three persons, and two armed men go before it. Over it there is an inscription, and above this a bas-relief which is much damaged, but on which we can distinguish a man, who appears to be swimming over a river, herds which are driven up a mountain, &c. I have not been able to make a drawing of it; but the inscription is still legible, only I have not yet found time to copy it. The wall does not end here, but runs on in the same direction, and doubtless forms the south wall of a large room, the western side of which is the wall on which is the chariot which I described in my last letter. You will remember that my excavations stopped at a large animal, which I took for an elephant. It has been since entirely excavated, but I cannot make out what it is; before it there are several very indistinct figures, one of which appears to be writing, one to draw (or to note) six human heads, which are piled up before him, and which without doubt have a reference to the remarkable scene of which I shall immediately have to speak. The wall, after running seventeen feet, forms a right angle towards the east, and here the north wall of the apartment begins. On this wall there are, first, some figures of which only the feet remain; then a bas-relief, on which there are two archers standing and two kneeling, who wear coats of mail, and have an inscription over them, which I send you. These archers are shooting at a fortress, which is taken by storm. I send you a drawing of this scene. This fortress consists of an embattled wall, which is strengthened by projecting towers; a stream flows beneath. Within the wall there is an eminence with a castle upon it, from which columns of red flame arise. On one of the sides of the wall there are three soldiers armed with lances, who hold their shields over their heads, and are mounting a ladder; others are already on the parapet; and in the intervals between the towers are seen other ladders and storming parties. At the other end are the remains of a similar scene, but this part of the bas-relief is much damaged, and we only see that one of the soldiers pierces an enemy with his sword; a man pierced with an arrow is seen falling from the top of the wall; and others are visible in different parts of the fortress lifting up their hands to heaven. Over the hill there is a short inscription, probably containing the name of the fortress, and which I have copied, and a longer one running over the whole. The scene is very animated, the attitudes are perfect, and in heads scarcely an inch long the features have the suitable expression.

After this bas-relief there is on the same wall a war-chariot, with a warrior and the charioteer; the horses are in full gallop towards the fortress, and trample with their hoofs on a man lying on the ground. The chariot is much damaged; but I have observed that the end of the pole has an ornament in the form of an

axe, on which a small figure with the head of an animal is sculptured, holding in one hand the mythological T and in the other a ring. From this ornament rises a pole which joins another that stands in the middle of the chariot and ends in a ball; below the chariot runs an inscription, the greater part of which may be copied. (The drawing of this ornament is very remarkable; the little figure is evidently no other than an Indian Hanuman, and the only thing Indian that has been found in all we have discovered.) Above the inscription there is a row of bas-reliefs, which, unhappily, are very much damaged; the principal represents a king seated, with a low table before him, and on the other side a beardless figure sitting, which might be taken for the queen.

Follow me now to the end of the third passage, with which my former description concludes. The northern wall here turns to the north, and forms a fourth passage, which, like the first three, is paved with a large stone, on which an inscription is carved, but it is unfortunately so broken that I cannot have it copied. On the wall we see the lower part of a colossal figure, on whose dress there is an inscription which I send you. The wall runs eighteen feet in the same direction to the end of the passage, and has on it a number of figures, of which I send you a drawing. The first two are prisoners, with chains on their hands and feet; the head of one of them is very fine, and well preserved. Before them are three persons armed and dressed like the female figure in my first letter; but I begin to doubt whether they are really female figures, for it seems very strange that they have swords. They have no beards, and the countenances are feminine; but there are some bearded figures which are dressed exactly in the same manner: perhaps they are young people or eunuchs, who have always performed a great part in the East. It seems that what I took for folds in their garments are nothing but long fringes hanging from the scarf which passes across the breast, for the swords are seen to pass under these fringes. Over the whole of the lower part of the dress of all these figures a long inscription runs, which I have not yet had time to copy. The southern wall of the fourth passage turns to the west: on it there are seven colossal figures, below which are two prisoners standing and two kneeling. The latter have cloaks of sheep-skin, and shoes, the points of which are turned up. Before them stands a man richly dressed, whose sandals we can still see to have been red. On the lower part of his dress there is likewise an inscription. The wall ran originally further in this direction, but is now destroyed, with the slope of the hill itself.

This description of the newlydiscovered sculptures is very incomplete; for to describe them in detail would require a volume. I doubt whether even in Egypt itself there are more richly decorated walls. In the whole monument there is not a foot-breadth which is not covered with sculptures or inscriptions. The mode of building is every where the same—immense slabs of gypsum of Mossul, ten or twelve feet square, and scarcely a foot thick. I have had the ground under their bases dug out, and ascertained that they do not rest on the brick pavement, or the slabs of the passages, but on the natural earth of the hill, so that they have sunk down in some places. I am inclined to think that the monument consists of subterranean chambers, which were excavated in the hill, and lined with stone slabs. The figures are in relief; rather lower than in Greek sculpture, but higher than the Egyptian. Though rather

stiff, they are well designed, the motions (attitudes) admirable, the muscles strongly marked; the hands, feet, and ornaments, are very carefully executed. I can no longer doubt that the building has been destroyed by fire. On the ground we find a quantity of coals, and some remains of burnt beams. The surface of the slabs is in many places calcined by fire, and friable. Lastly, I have found a number of small clay balls, on which a mythological figure is impressed, and on close examination I have observed that there was a hole through them, in which there are remains of a burnt string. Probably they were hung up, and fell in the fire; the figure on them is always that of a man combatting a lion; but on each there are some letters in cuneiform character, and this inscription is different on each. The balls have been merely formed by the hand, and the impression of the finger, and even the pores of the skin, may still be seen on them. Were they perhaps seals, which, as in Egypt, were tied to the horns of the animals offered in sacrifice? I forgot to say that I had the slab, with which one of the passages is paved, taken up, in order to see whether there were a tomb under it; but I found nothing of the kind. It lies on the ground of the hill, and I have dug some feet deep to no purpose.

As I learned in Europe will doubtless endeavour to determine the age of this monument, I will withhold my own conjectures, and merely mention some details which may be useful in the investigation. All the inscriptions that I have found are in the same kind of cuneiform character as those which I have sent you; this is the same as that on the bricks which I have dug up at Nineveh itself. The bricks perfectly resemble the latter, and, like them, are cemented with bitumen. I have likewise found within the walls of Nineveh remains of sculptures in the same style. All the mythological representations that are seen on the walls of Chorsabad are Babylonian, and exactly like those on the cylinders. I have not yet found any indication of the use of iron in the building, but many remains of bronze, in the form of nails, rings, bands, and even a part of a bronze carriage-wheel, a foot and a half in diameter. These facts indicate the antiquity of the monument; and, on the other side, I have discovered that the stone slabs belonged to a still older building; for on the back of them there are inscriptions in cuneiform characters, which have evidently suffered through age. The character is precisely the same as that of the present monument. I regret that I am here alone, for I cannot draw well enough to do justice to the originals. The government ought to send me a good draughtsman, who might also assist me in conducting the excavations. The field for research is great, for the monument extends through the whole hill, and the further I penetrate the better are the sculptures preserved. All the bas-reliefs are historical; the inscriptions are very numerous, and when they can be read will throw light on many things. But it is necessary that all should be copied, both sculpture and inscription, for the walls suffer by exposure to the air, and are split by the mass of earth behind them, in spite of the props I have given them, and they fall off in pieces, so that part of what I have copied no longer exists.

When this letter was published, only one fragment of those sculptures had been received at Paris; it is the head of a child, about three inches high. It was shewn at the Academy of the Fine Arts, and in their opinion gives a very high idea of Assyrian art. The sculpture is bolder than that of Persepolis.

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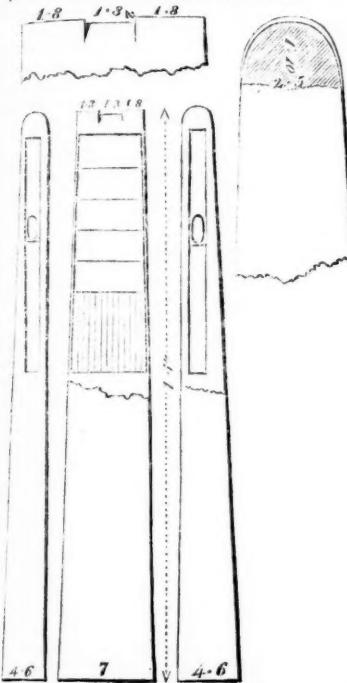
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OBELISK OF THE FAIOUM.

The following is an accurate delineation of its figure in little, and a larger one of its upper extremity—the peculiar form of which, together with the circumstance of its situation, suggests the possibility of the purpose attributed to it. (See our last *Gazette*, page 796, col. i.)



This fragment of antiquity lies on its most inclined surface, half buried and broken in two, in a corn-field, some little distance west of the village of Ebgiq, about an hour's ride from the Medinet Elfaoum. As far as could be ascertained from a hole dug near both extremities, that surface (the under one) is not decorated; but on the two side surfaces is a royal legend of large and admirable hieroglyphics, bearing the prænomens of Osertisen, and resembling very much in matter the inscription on the obelisk of Matriah (Heliopolis) of the same monarch.

These inscriptions are parallel with the upper surface or front of the monument, on which is engraved, in five compartments, small whole-lengths of that Pharaoh in the position of astonishment, in the presence of various gods and goddesses. Below these compartments are thirteen lines perpendicular of hieroglyphics.*

In the vicinity of the village of Ebgiq is another large block of the same quality of granite (sienite), that has been converted into a mill-stone; most probably other stones would be found by digging; for one cannot imagine so weighty a mass as the obelisk to have been erected on the alluvium without some kind of substructure.

* None of these significant decorations appear to have extended much below their present termination. Dr. Lepsius has taken impressions of these inscriptions, so that we may hope soon to have an analysis; although the small characters on the front of the monument are very much defaced.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The Chevalier Schomburgk's Expedition.

Of this expedition a brief mention was made at the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on the 27th ult. (see *Literary Gazette*, p. 796); but a complete sketch of it having been given, from Mr. Schomburgk's own mouth, in the *Guiana Herald* of October 20 and 23, we trust it will gratify our readers to have all the interesting particulars condensed by us from that journal.

The general result is, that Mr. Schomburgk has completed the circuit of the colony of Demerara from its sea-boundary to within forty-two miles of the equator, without the loss of a life from sickness or accident; and that he has (first and last) spent about three years in these travels.

In the expedition just terminated, he left Georgetown in February, accompanied by Mr. Goodall the artist, and a band of Macusi Indians, who remained faithful to him, under many trials, from beginning to end. They ascended the Essequibo; and on March 24 reached Pirara, reduced from a populous Indian village to desolation, and the residence of a single family. Here they remained, preparing for their further progress, till April 30, when, from the fulness of the river, they were enabled to ascend the Rupununi higher than was ever accomplished before in such large boats,—to the astonishment of the natives on its banks. Here the party separated, and Mr. Schomburgk and Mr. Goodall set off by land across the Carawani mountains, and crossed great savannahs, and Manica swamps, abounding with a species of cocoa (*Theobroma*), from the seeds of which they made excellent chocolate, and thus taught the Indians a valuable art, of which they were previously ignorant. On June 8 they came to a settlement of Tarumas, near another of Atorais (visited by the chevalier in 1837), and found them both miserably reduced by deaths from smallpox and measles—the latter from 200 to 30! Here they made woodskin or bark canoes, and descended the Cuyuwini into the Upper Essequibo (June 21). In this locality they found a tuber of the bean kind, of considerable size; in taste between the yam and sweet potato. It is called ciyupá by the natives; and Mr. Schomburgk, believing it would be a valuable addition to the esculents of the colony, brought seeds with him, and distributed them at Georgetown.

At the mouth of the Urana, which debouches into the Essequibo in about $10^{\circ} 37' N.$ lat., they abandoned their canoes, and traversed a chain of hills till July 13, when they stood at the sources of the Onoro, another tributary to the Essequibo, and, by ascending an elevation of about 100 feet, attained the sources of the Capiwini or Apinianau, the head waters of the large river Trombetas (which afterwards amplifies itself opposite Phauxis or Obodos into the Amazon), and, in this geographical position, at the height of about 2000 feet, were upon the division between the rivers which flow southward into the Amazon, and those which take a northward or westward course into the Essequibo.

They walked a few miles to a Maopityan or Awackwas village, in which were two large houses with pagoda roofs, but the once-powerful tribe sadly reduced. They are distinct in features from the other Indians, and also in dress, &c., wearing long queues, bound round with palm-leaves, and ornamented with parrot-feathers and strings of red cotton. Their food was wretched—mixing rotten wood ground

with small quantities of cassada flour; and they were also unfriendly; so that the voyagers had much difficulty in procuring any supply of provisions, and more in getting six of these savages to accompany them to the next stage (eight days), whom, in the sequel it turned out, they had much better have left at home. They, however, embarked in canoes, and descended the Capiwini for the Pinaghotto and Drio tribes, encountering great danger from the perilous navigation of a succession of cataracts from 40 to 50 feet perpendicular, and a fall of 305 feet in sixty miles. On July 29, they arrived at the junction of the Capiwini with the Wanamu, of equal magnitude; and the two formed a river called the Kaphu. The Indians in these parts, no matter what their names—Zuramatias, Drios, Pinaghottos, &c.—are in a most wretched condition, starving and perishing. They reported of other tribes—the Tsinianas, and, further westward, the yet more formidable Maipurishanas or Cortoipityans (Tapirs)—as being cannibals, and drinking their blood out of their enemies' skulls. From a miserable family of Zuramatias they obtained a small quantity of provisions, and proceeded to ascend the Wanamu.

But it is to be remarked that they could hear nothing of the famous nation of the Amazons, who seemed to elude inquiry the nearer they approached to the points where ancient tradition and more modern history had located them. Mr. S., however, still holds their existence to be doubtful.

Notwithstanding messengers sent before, it unfortunately happened that the first Indians they encountered in two canoes (August 5) had had no intimation of their approach, and fled in terror, spreading the alarm along the shore. Mr. S. in vain endeavoured to overtake and dispossess them of this mistaken notion. He found the village utterly deserted, with all its provisions, utensils, &c. and left to the mercy of the invaders. Unhappily these spoils provoked the cupidity of the six Maopityans, and they planned the plunder of the place and desertion from the expedition. They were seized and guarded; but the fatigue of watching and anxiety for fourteen days brought a fit of illness on Mr. Goodall, and affected also the health of Mr. Schomburgk. By fortunate chance the poor family of Zuramatias, mentioned above, came up, were laden with gifts, and despatched to disabuse the Pinaghottos of their fears. But our friends were compelled to abandon their heavy baggage, and all Mr. S.'s collection of natural history and ethnography,—a sad loss, after all the trouble and labour of forming it. Some of the baggage was afterwards recovered, but the collection never, nor the tents, nor the salt, which was an essential in the stores. Their course lay north, up the Iriau; and Aug. 21 they were again on the high lands which divide the basin of the Amazon from the northern rivers. Here they fell in with the Drios, and were succoured. Near them were the Eagle Indians, and the Bush Negroes of Surinam; and Mr. S. estimates the numbers of the Maroons at six or eight thousand. Sept. 6 they embarked in wood-skins to descend the Corentyne, here a mere stream. The navigation was slow (fifteen miles in six days) and attended with toil and difficulties. Tributaries, however, fell in; and getting down cataracts as well as they could, the canoes traversed a dreary solitude, as if never trodden by the foot of man, trending W. and S. W., instead of N.N.W. as when nearer the source. For fourteen days they suffered from want and exhaustion; but this period was succeeded by

ten days of still more dreadful privations. When nearly worn out, at last, on the 24th of September, the path from the Corentyne to the Essequibo was discovered, and joy succeeded to despair. By the 1st of October they reached a Carib settlement; and their sufferings were at an end. Within a few days they were safe at Georgetown; and, but for the heavy loss of the natural-history specimens, all would have been as well as the friends of zeal, endurance, and courage, could have wished.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

AGRICULTURE AND CHEMISTRY.

LAST week Prof. Brande, at the request of Lord Spencer, the President of the Agricultural Society, devoted two evenings to describe and to illustrate to that numerous and influential body the connexion between agriculture and chemistry. The attendance at the theatre of the Royal Institution, granted for the purpose by the managers with their usual liberality, was numerous; and much pleasure was evinced and interest excited by the judicious selection and masterly treatment of the subject. We wish we could call up the like lively feelings by a verbal description of the illustrations; but the wonders of experimental chemistry must be seen to be enjoyed. We think, however, that a full report of the lectures, without going deeply into the chemistry thereof, will be received with thanks; and we, therefore, cheerfully proceed to the task, devoting to it more space than usual, because agricultural chemistry is one of the topics of the day, and because a plain statement of facts by an able experimenter and skilful analyst, and by one who acknowledges the union of theory and practice to be more than ever desirable, will tend to promote the welfare and progress of agriculture.

Soils are made up of organic and inorganic constituents. Prof. Brande confined his observations to the latter, and classed them under two heads: 1st, those constituting the bulk of the soil, upon the mechanical texture and chemical composition of which its general fitness for the growth of crops and timber depend, namely, lime, clay, and sand;—2d, particular substances involving the fitness of the soil for particular crops, such as sulphate of lime, phosphate of lime, salts of potash, soda, magnesia, iron, and manganese.

Lime is an article of so much importance to the agriculturist, and some of its salts seem to possess such valuable, though, in some respects, obscure influence as manures, that it was the first substance considered. What is lime? The chemist replies, it is a compound of a metal, calcium, and of a gaseous body, oxygen, and in their united state called an oxide of calcium. Calcium, because of its great affinity for oxygen, could not be exhibited; it belongs to a class of bodies little inclined to remain in an isolated or separate state, and requires difficult processes to evolve and to procure it. Its counterpart or type, potassium, possessing similar affinities and properties, was shewn, and the alkaline nature of its oxide proved by the turmeric test-paper. Lime does not exist in its native state; except, perhaps, in volcanic regions, and in a lake of Tuscany. Its compounds are very numerous, and these are the sources of lime to the agriculturist. One of them, the carbonate of lime, is very abundant, most easily decomposed, and is chiefly resorted to. It constitutes, in various forms, mountains and hills, and strata covering large districts, and is geologically spoken of as primary, secondary, and tertiary limestone, as being associated with the older, intermediate, or most re-

cent strata of the globe. It is known as marble, limestone, shell-stone, oolite, chalk (the upper flinty, the lower argillaceous), calcareous spar, coral, shells, shell-sand, &c. All these are more or less carbonates of lime; and carbonate of lime, like all other chemical compounds, is made up of determinate or definite proportions of its elements: it is always constituted of 28 parts of lime and 22 carbonic acid. But lime and carbonic acid are themselves compound bodies; they constitute, therefore, what chemists call the proximate elements of carbonate of lime, the ultimate elements of which are calcium, carbon, and oxygen; lime being a compound of 20 parts of calcium and 8 of oxygen, and carbonic acid a compound of 6 carbon and 16 oxygen. (Carbonic acid was here formed by burning charcoal in oxygen, and was then combined with lime, so as to shew the formation of carbonate of lime from its elements.) The common mode of detecting the presence of carbonic acid in a rock or soil consists in subjecting it to the action of diluted muriatic acid, when, if carbonic acid be present, an effervescence ensues; and when it is desired to determine what quantity of carbonate of lime exists in a soil, it is done by ascertaining the weight of the carbonic acid which passes off: thus, if 100 grains of the soil lost 22 grains of carbonic acid, it would indicate 50 per cent of carbonate of lime, and so on. (Prof. Brande shewed the mode of performing this experiment.) In referring to the composition of the varieties of chalk, Prof. Brande adverted to the importance of certain foreign matters occasionally contained in it, which were formerly overlooked or thought insignificant, such as bituminous substances, alumina, silica, potash, soda, magnesia, phosphate of lime, &c. The chalk about Brighton, made up chiefly of the remains of multitudes of animalcules, contains phosphate of lime; hence it may occasionally be used as manure for chalk not possessing it, and especially as a top-dressing for wheat. The peculiarities of the limestone or chalk extend to the lime, or quick-lime, resulting from burning it in the kiln, which is merely a process to drive off the carbonic acid; but the properties of quick-lime are chiefly important to the agriculturist. And first, the change it undergoes on exposure to air, crumbling down into a white powder, in consequence chiefly of absorbing water. By long exposure, a portion of the caustic lime becomes a hydrate, and a portion returns to the state of a carbonate, or chalk. Its great affinity for water is shewn by slaking, 28 parts of lime taking up 9 parts of water: 700 parts of water are required to dissolve one part of lime. The action of lime on organic matters—peat, leaves, vegetables, &c.—is to decompose and convert them into humus or mould, to neutralise acids, and to form salts of lime. It also decomposes certain salts of iron injurious to vegetation, throwing down the iron as a harmless oxide; and it reacts on salts of alumina, potash, soda, magnesia, and ammonia. It tends—and particularly with bone-dust—to produce ammonia and nitrates; and its action on slate, felspar, &c., develops alkalies and soluble silicates, so essential for wheat and certain other crops. When lime has passed again into a carbonate, it becomes a good ingredient in the soil: it is chemically the same as crushed limestone, shell-sand, or marl; but mechanically it has the advantage of being in very fine powder—hence more perfectly blended with the soil, and brought into contact with the roots of plants; and if these secrete acid, and so render it soluble, it will, of course, be more easily taken up.

The other salts of lime which principally claim the agriculturist's attention, are the sulphate and phosphate. Sulphate of lime is a compound of sulphuric acid and lime—its ultimate elements being sulphur, oxygen, and calcium. It is called gypsum, plaster-stone, and selenite. They are natural products, and found crystallised. Heated to 400° or 500°, they become plaster of Paris, and may be moulded with water; but, if heated to redness, the powder loses the power of recombining with water. Organic matter changes sulphate of lime into a sulphuret, and sulphuretted hydrogen is evolved; hence fetid and poisonous exhalations. Crops contain not only sulphate of lime, but sulphur in a free state, as in mustard and horseradish, derived from the soil. Its principal sources are the red marls and salt deposits, also some of the primitive rocks, and the tertiary deposits. Its use in agriculture is, that it acts as food, but does not attract moisture or promote decomposition. It is contained in lucern, sainfoin, red clover, and turnips, and for these crops is a fertilising top-dressing: it is not contained in wheat, barley, oats, beans, or peas; and to these it is of no service. The plants which do contain it never grow well on lands destitute of it: so also in regard to the other salts of lime. When applied to grasses, it is important that the weather should be damp. In an ordinary crop of clover there is from 1½ to 2 cwt. per acre; and this is the proper proportion recommended for use by the best authorities for those soils deficient in it. One of these authorities, Prof. Johnston, says farther of it, "If fields which once gave luxuriant crops of red clover no longer yield it—if the young plants spring up numerously, but die away as summer advances—if the land is tired of clover, or clover-sick—if farmyard-compost is ineffectual upon his grasses,—the agriculturist may conclude, without analysis, that gypsum is required." Peat-ashes are often effectual, because they contain 12 per cent of gypsum—the rest being sand, oxide of iron, salt, and carbonate of lime. Also coal-ashes, as there is 10 per cent of gypsum in them. Such, then, are the uses of gypsum as a top-dressing for artificial grasses, and it is especially beneficial in certain localities. It is cheap; and a wagon-load will dress 30 acres. Sulphate of lime is also said to be capable of absorbing ammonia. Carbonate of ammonia and sulphate of lime, it is true, react on each other, but very imperfectly, except they are in solution, and hence its failure as an absorbent for carbonate of ammonia in stables, where the atmosphere is loaded with it, to the injury of man and beast, and where such immense quantities of this otherwise valuable material apparently goes to waste. (Trays of sawdust saturated with sulphuric acid, placed in a stable, were said, by a gentleman in conversation after the lecture, to be very effective in rapidly clearing the atmosphere, and rendering the ammonia in stables vapourless.)

The phosphate is another important salt of lime: it forms part of the bones of animals; it is derived from the soil, and transmitted to animals through vegetables. How the soil is supplied with it, has lately occupied much attention. Bones in this respect possess great fertilising powers. Soaked in acid, the animal matter is left tough and flexible, but the bone-earth, or phosphate of lime, is dissolved out. Fossil bones are also sources; but this has been overrated as to quantity; likewise guano, an excrement of birds. Phosphate of lime is, farther, a mineral product, and is found in the silty rocks of Bohemia, and Estremadura in Spain, and in some marls, clay-slates, and

chalk. It is contained too in oyster-shells, corals, and crustaceans generally. When rock-slate has yielded the subsoil clay, subsoil ploughing is an abundant source. Liebig considers phosphate of lime most essential to wheat, and to a great extent doubtless it is so. And because it is necessary to wheat, oats, &c., those plants which, such as leguminous, contain least salts form the best fallow crops. They exert no injurious effect on corn, because they do not rob the soil of alkalies and phosphates. In the use of bone-manure much depends upon the state in which it is applied. When it was thought that the animal part of the bone only was active, it was deemed enough to crush or bruise the bones; they were afterwards found more effectual in powder; and lately they have been disintegrated by acids, such as muriatic or sulphuric acid and water, and applied in solution. The free acids are neutralised by the bases in the soil, and very finely divided phosphates and sulphates are diffused through it. (The Duke of Richmond subsequently said, that bone-manure had been thus successfully applied in Scotland: about 12 tons of turnips had been obtained from an acre of ordinary land at a cost of 1s.; whilst with other manures, at a cost of 3*l.*, about 11 tons only had been produced.)

Clays.—Very different substances pass under the name of clay; but they all agree in containing one chemical element, on which their peculiarities in many respects depend, called alumina, it being one of the ingredients of alum. Alumina has a strong affinity for water and for vegetable matters, and is soluble in acids and alkalies. Another compound of clay is silica, possessing remarkable properties. Its varieties are rock-crystal, calcedony, flint, sand, &c. It is insoluble in water, and in all acids except one: it is soluble in alkalies. With excess of soda, it forms a glass soluble in water, and, considerably diluted, is known as the liquor of flints: the addition of an acid throws down the silica in a state of jelly. It is this property of solubility in alkalies that renders silica so important and so available to grasses; and when in its gelatinous state, very weak acids, and alkalies, and even water, will dissolve it.

Mixtures and compounds of silica and alumina form clays, which receive different names according as they contain more or less of their essential ingredient, as they are blended with limestone, or as they have mixed up with them various occasional substances, yet of great importance, such as potash, soda, &c. How are these latter to be detected? If mere soluble salts, by boiling in water. But clays may be rich in alkaline matter and yet yield no indications of it in that way. They can be separated from their combinations only by fusion, by long continued exposure to air, water, and temperature, by the influence of lime, or, in the laboratory, by voltaic electricity. There can be no soil fertile in reference to texture without sand and clay; none in reference to composition without lime and alkalies; and in reference to particular crops without sulphur, phosphorus, magnesia, oxide of iron, &c. These are essential to animals,—they must originate with vegetables; and vegetables create nothing, as was once supposed in regard to sulphur, phosphorus, and the alkalies. No clay is fertile without lime; its presence is chemically essential not only as a component part of the crop, but as a substance slowly reacting on the clay, and developing under the influence of moisture its alkaline constituents in the state of a soluble silicate. It is thus that lime becomes a great means of awakening what have been called the dormant

capabilities of the soil. If clays containing lime be burned, these changes are afterwards more rapidly effected, and at the same time the texture of the clay is so mechanically altered that it crumbles into a kind of sandy powder, and never again acquires the same relation to water, or the plasticity, that it had before. Calcined clay, moreover, is an absorbent of air, ammonia, nitric acid, &c.

If 100 soil have 10 clay, it is termed sandy.

" 10 to 40=sandy loam.

" 40 to 70=loam.

" 70 to 85=clay loam.

" 85 to 95=strong clay.

" 95 to 100=agricultural clay.

Pure clay consists of 60 of silica and 40 of alumina, in intimate combination—that is, as arising out of the disintegration of slates, felspars, and other rocks. But these are rare; and the strong clays contain 5 to 15 per cent of adventitious sands. There is seldom more than 30 per cent of alumina in arable land. Marl is a calcareous clay. Sand added to clay soils acts merely mechanically; but clay added to sand acts chemically—that is, along with alumina, it always brings alkalies. Ashes of plants rarely contain alumina, but almost always silica and silicate of potash. The hay-stalk, the corn-straw, the exterior of cane, &c. chiefly consist of silica: hence the necessity of the clay, as a chemical element of the soil, yielding the alkali which renders the silica soluble. When potash is not united to silica, it is combined with other acids derived from the plant—as tartaric, citric, oxalic: in the former case the ashes contain no carbonate; in the latter they effervesce with acid.

Such, then, is an outline of the facts related. The experiments, illustrations, tests, specimens, &c., were as complete as could be wished; and they and the whole matter gave general satisfaction. Thanks were voted by acclamation to Prof. Brande for his admirable lectures, and to the managers of the institution for the use of the theatre.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

Dec. 11.—Mr. Murchison, president, in the chair. The secretary read a paper by Dr. Beke, "On the countries to the south of the river Abai,"—with respect to which, says Dr. Beke, the information hitherto laid before the public is very meagre; and the few details which we do possess, being derived from the accounts of single individuals, are subject to the defects which the unsupported relations of natives of uncivilised countries always are. Dr. Beke's memoir was accompanied by a map shewing in detail the several countries extending over the space between the 6th and 10th deg. of north lat., and the 35th and 39th deg. of east long., with respect to which map the author says, "whatever may be its errors, it is, I believe, the first attempt to arrange the countries to the south of the Abai in any thing like form. I flatter myself, therefore, it will be received as a valuable addition to our knowledge of these regions."

It is impossible for us to do more on the present occasion than allude to a few of the main features of the many interesting particulars of Dr. Beke's communication. After describing the general characters of the Galla table-land, as well as particular portions of it, such as Nónno, Gúma, Chelea, Sibu, and Walléggá, he mentions a vast forest as lying between Walléggá, Gúma, Géra, and Káffa, through which the caravans going to the last-named country have to pass. The merchants describe it as so thick as to be impervious to the rays of the sun, and say that

they have to travel four or five days through it without obtaining a sight of that luminary. In this forest are the heads of the rivers Gódjeb, Gáha, and Dedhésa, and also apparently of the Gibbi of Enárea.

Beyond Amúru to the westward are Hébantu and Limmu (called Limmu-Sébo, to distinguish it from the Limmu of Enárea); and beyond these again is an extensive desert tract called Hándak, through which flows a large river joining the Abai. This river in its position coincides with the Yabré; and we have here, beyond all doubt, the *Habáhia* of M. Jomard's informant Wáre (*Otaré*).

After giving a brief description of the Galla districts of Gúderu, hither Djimma and Nónno, the traveller enters into a lengthened account of the kingdom of Enárea, governed by the Mohammedan king Ibsa, better known as Abba Bógíbo, i. e. the possessor (master) of Bógíbo, his favourite war-horse: such being the Galla custom of designating their chiefs. Enárea is celebrated for its coffee, of which there are large woods in the vicinity of Sákka, the capital and chief market of the country. These woods are described as containing trees the trunks of which are from two to three feet in diameter; a size far exceeding any thing of the kind elsewhere. The coffee-crop begins in December. It is generally sold by the mule-load, which costs a dollar, without regard to the quantity; and large powerful mules are trained as *market-mules*, which carry away with them two ordinary loads. The people of Enárea are the most civilised of all Galla land, and manufactures flourish there in a higher degree than elsewhere.

Gúma joins Enárea to the west, being governed by Abba Rébu. It is the custom through all these countries to sell whole families for the offence of one individual; a custom more prevalent in Gúma than elsewhere.

Further (or Káka) Djimma is governed by Sánná, surnamed Abba Djisáf, who is the most powerful of the Galla monarchs. At Folla, or Polla, a town within his dominions, young male slaves are mutilated in order to qualify them for attendants in the harems of the great. The government of Djándjero appears to be a despotism not merely absolute but of the most capricious description. All the males except the monarch and his children have both breasts cut off, and are otherwise mutilated, in order to disqualify them from reigning. The tanners and other inferior castes are exempted from this custom, for the strange reason that, as they are not freemen, and consequently no one would submit to their rule, there is no fear of their pretending to the government. At Yéjúbbi Dr. Beke saw a couple of boys from Djándjero, both eunuchs, one of whom was purchased for forty dollars, by an agent of our ally Sáhela Sé-lásie, the Christian king of Shoa. The slaves of Djándjero are the fairest brought to Básó market. The native name is Yángaro, Djándjero being the Galla pronunciation, as Zindjero is the usual Abyssinian appellation. The people of Djándjero are pagans different from the Gallas, and the language is quite dissimilar.

Kaffa is a large and powerful Christian kingdom, governed by a monarch whose title is Tháto, and who claims to be descended from the imperial family of Ethiopia. His capital is Bonga. There are only six or eight churches, probably a sort of abbey, and, like those in Abyssinia, are at a considerable distance from each other; and when the king dies, his body is carried a week's journey to one of these churches, which is the usual place of sepulture of the monarchs. In Kaffa, as in Djándjero

and all the countries to the south of Gallia land, it is considered improper to eat grain of any sort; in fact, 'grain-eater' is a term of reproach—the vegetable food of the country consisting entirely of *énset*, which is cultivated in vast quantities." So, too, the flesh of the ox alone, of all animals, is used for food. Further in Kaffa, leather is not worn in any form. The higher classes wear cotton dresses, and the poorer weave the filaments of the *énset* into a coarser article of clothing. The civet of Abyssinian commerce comes chiefly from Kaffa, which country likewise produces coffee, chaat (tea), and Korarina (a species of coriander), taken to India by the way of Massowa. In Kaffa there is no dry season. Grain-salt is brought thither by the way of Góbo, Woráatta, and Dóko, from the sea of Hind.

Sáro, to the west of Kaffa, is inhabited by pagan negroes, who take out two of the front teeth, and cut a hole in the lower lip, into which they insert a wooden plug. Beyond Kaffa, further to the west or north-west, are other Christian countries, extending far into the interior of Africa, as far as the river Báró. The original seat of the Gallas is said to have been beyond the Báró. As the universal tradition among these people is, that they came from Bargáma, which is generally understood as meaning "beyond the *bahr*, or sea," Dr. Beke suggests the likelihood of its meaning "beyond the Baro."

Dóko—which country Dr. Beke was, if we mistake not, the first to bring to our knowledge—has been described by the Rev. Mr. Kraps as inhabited by a race of pygmies. Dr. Beke heard nothing of this remarkable fact (if fact it be); but, curiously enough, another traveller, M. d'Abbadie, in an account of them in the *Bulletin* of the Geographical Society of Paris, describes the people of Dóko as "very large and muscular." Their language, too, he says, has some resemblance to that of Woráatta, which, from vocabularies collected by Dr. Beke, is cognate with those of Wolámo and Kaffa, as well as with the Góngá language, spoken still in a part of Damot, to the north of the Abai.

We have no space for more than to enumerate the names of Kíchá or Kúchash, Woráatta, Woláita or Woláino, Siékká, &c. &c., all further discussed by Dr. Beke, whose paper terminated with an investigation of the courses of the rivers running north-westward and south-eastward from the high table-land forming the continuation of the grand anticlinal axis of Abyssinia, which is to be regarded as one extremity of the backbone of Africa. This investigation led to an animated discussion, in which Mr. C. Johnston, a gentleman who has lately returned from Shoa, took part. Mr. J. advocated views in some respects different from those propounded by Dr. Beke.

When the paper was concluded, Captain Groves handed to the president a letter from Sir Stratford Canning, which, being read from the chair, announced the gratifying intelligence that there was great probability of Col. Stoddart being still alive.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, Dec. 5.—The following degrees were conferred:—

Musæus of Arts.—C. Sumner, grand compounder, Balliol College; R. G. Walls, Brasenose Coll.; E. L. Sandy—Lumsdale, Oriel College; Rev. C. Dunlop, Rev. A. Bayham, Pemb. Coll.; Rev. A. T. Atwood, S. J. Jerram, Worcester College; Rev. H. H. Haskins, J. Welch, Queen's College.

Bachelors of Arts.—F. Darling, New Inn Hall; R. Gandel, Michel scholar, H. Tickell, M. Warburton, F. H. Dunwell, Queen's College; S. W. Stevenson, J.

Buckmaster, St. Mary Hall; F. Tufnel, scholar, F. H. Laing, Wadham Coll.; E. West, fellow, W. P. Wood, St. John's College; G. T. Cooke, demy of Magdalen College; C. Offley, Univ. College; B. Kingsford, A. S. Ormerod, Exeter Coll.; H. N. Lloyd, scholar of Jesus College; J. Lloyd, Worcester College; W. Meade, J. Shadwell, Balliol College.

Royal Kindness to Literature.—Through the medium of the secretary of the Literary Fund Institution, and paying due attention to the data supplied by him, her Majesty has given two presentations to the Charterhouse; one to Capt. Davis, author of *Travels in America* in 1798-9, and another to Mr. Moncrief, the well-known writer of some 200 dramatic pieces. The asylum is a very comfortable one; and among its members are several with whom all London has been familiar as prosperous gentlemen in happier times. The accidents which plunge from wealth to want in our commercial land are but too numerous and too severe. Mr. William Jones, author of the *History of the Waldenses*, and other valued publications, was also intended for a similar bounty, but, being a dissenter, was ineligible; upon being informed of which, the Queen graciously remitted 60*l.* from her privy purse, to be administered to the old man's necessities by 10*l.* half-yearly. This spontaneous charity, and the pains taken to direct it into deserving channels, are truly honourable to her Majesty, Prince Albert, Mr. Anson, and Mr. Blewett, the secretary of the Fund.

Royal Society of Literature.—On Thursday, Col. Leake in the chair, several interesting papers were read on Greek, Egyptian,* and mediæval subjects, of which we shall give ample reports.

Spottiswoode Society.—A new literary society under this title is forming in Edinburgh; the object of which is to revive the writings of the episcopal church of Scotland, to illustrate the civil and ecclesiastical state of the country both from their publications and manuscripts. In the present distracted condition of the presbyterian kirk, it is not difficult to foresee the tendency of such works.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK:—

Monday.—Statistical, 8 P.M.; British Architects,

8 P.M.; Chemical, 8 P.M.; Medical, 8 P.M.

Tuesday.—Linnaean, 8 P.M.

Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.; Microscopical,

8 P.M.; Ethnological, 8 P.M.

Thursday.—Royal, 8½ P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.

Friday.—Philological, 8 P.M.

Saturday.—Westminster Medical, 8 P.M.

FINE ARTS.

BRONZE SCULPTURE.

We thank "Eques" for his note; but he has mistaken the meaning of the passage referred to. We stated that the height of the *hough* of the horse in Wyatt's equestrian group of Wellington for the west-end of the metropolis was, "from the ground, 6 feet;" and added, "or, in other words, 18 hands, the height of the largest dray-horse." We think the significance is obvious; the *hough*, justly observed by Eques to be equivalent to the *heel* in plantigrade animals, being as high as a large dray-horse, it follows that the statuary horse is most "colossal,"—the largest ever executed in bronze by the hand of man. We have just looked out a memorandum we made on the subject many months ago, from very competent authorities and accurate calculations; and, as a curiosity

* One of them, by the Editor, forms the sequel to M. Bonom's letters from Cairo in last *Gazette* and at a preceding page.

in regard to *magnitude* in Art, we subjoin the particulars.

An equestrian statue 10 feet high will contain under 300 feet of *superficial* measurement, and will weigh under 4 tons. The accustomed cost of such productions has been about eight thousand guineas.

An equestrian statue 15 feet high will contain (mark the increasing ratio of the proportions) above 600 superficial feet, will weigh little less than 11 tons, and, when cleaned off, cost 18,000 guineas.

An equestrian statue of 20 feet in height will contain about 1100 superficial feet, weigh 30 tons, and cost, at the same rate as the others, 30,000 guineas.

We do not remember precisely the dimensions of Mr. Wyatt's design, but if not mistaken, it reaches to above 26 feet in height, will weigh little under 50 tons, and must be cast in eight or ten huge divisions. Fifteen or twenty large guns would not supply more than enough of metal, and the pits for casting these parts are immense squares of 16 or 18 feet in diameter. Well might we say the process was cyclopean.

It should be noted that, according to the increase of size, there must be an increase of thickness throughout the group, and a large surplus of metal in the furnace in order to supply the runners and the air-tubes so as to secure a complete and perfect cast. Those who have not witnessed the operation would be astonished at it. The model is enclosed by a building which would seem as if it were made to last a century; but it is only the case to co-operate with the model in producing the cast, and as soon as the run is cooled, is of no further use. The tapping of the furnace to allow several tons of liquid metal to pour itself into the ingeniously constructed channels for its conveyance to its destination is a singular sight, and one of interest as intense as its heat,—for the slightest error or accident is sufficient to spoil the whole, and cause all the expense, and labour, and anxiety to be begun again. A little damp will lead to an explosion, the stoppage of a runner to an imperfection, the want of action in an air-tube or two to the frustration of every hope of success; and when, after the lapse of days to admit of cooling in these prodigious masses, the artist opens up his pit, he may discover that all he has done goes for nothing but to teach by experience to guard against the possibility or chance of similar failures.

We have gone into this description because we believe the public generally are quite unacquainted with the very difficult art in question. Crowds went to Woolwich to see the volutes of the Nelson column cast, as a novelty; and, so far, it was well worth the visit to have ocular inspection of the method by which such works are performed, even though the lesson went only to the extent of some 900 lbs., and the form was of the easiest character. But when shapes, and likenesses, and still greater volumes are in hand, the niceties, contrivances, and precautions required are inexpressible; and the production of a fine equestrian group, be it 10, 15, 20, or 25 feet in altitude, is an undertaking which demands the utmost efforts, not only of skill and genius, but of toil, perseverance, care, acuteness, and devotion, which amply merits the meed of public encouragement and honour.

ROYAL ACADEMY.

LAST Saturday, the seventy-fifth anniversary, the general assembly for the election of officers

and adjudication of prizes to the students took place in the saloon of the Academy. We have to regret the absence of the president in consequence of indisposition, consequently there was no address; and Mr. Jones, the keeper R.A., in a scarcely audible voice, delivered the honourable awards.

To Mr. E. B. Stephens, for the best composition in sculpture, the gold medal, and the discourses of the Presidents Reynolds and West.

To Mr. H. B. Garling, for the best architectural design, the gold medal, &c.

To Mr. J. Harwood, for the best copy made in the school of painting, the silver medal, with the lectures of the Professors Barry, Opie, and Fuseli.

To Mr. A. Rauchley, for the next best copy made in the painting school, the silver medal; but, having received a similar medal in 1842, this medal, though adjudged, could not be given.

To Mr. A. Solomon, for the best drawing from the living models, the silver medal. There was only one medal given in the class this time.

To Mr. G. Perry, for a drawing of the west wing of Greenwich Hospital, the silver medal.

To Mr. J. E. Millais, for the best drawing from the antique, the silver medal, and the lectures, &c.

To Mr. G. E. Suizenich, for the next best drawing from the antique, the silver medal.

To Mr. J. Engel, for the best model from the antique, the silver medal, and the lectures, &c.

To Mr. A. Gatley, for the next best model from the antique, the silver medal was adjudged, but not bestowed, as he had already (in 1842) received a similar medal.

To Mr. W. Thomas, for the next best model from the antique, the silver medal.

On the audience retiring, the academicians proceeded to the election of officers, &c., for the ensuing year, according to the following rotation, when Sir M. A. Shee was re-elected president.

Council.—New list: Sir W. C. Ross, Sir A. W. Calcott, Mr. C. Stansfield, and Mr. C. R. Leslie. Old list: Mr. C. Barry, Mr. G. Jones, Mr. A. D. Chalon, and Mr. T. Phillips.

Visitors in the Life-Academy.—New list: Mr. A. Cooper, Mr. J. J. Chalon, Sir W. C. Ross, Mr. W. Etty, and Mr. S. A. Hart. Old list: Mr. E. H. Bailey, Mr. A. E. Chalon, Mr. R. Cook, and Mr. W. F. Witherington.

In the School of Painting.—New list: Mr. J. J. Chalon, Mr. W. Mulready, Mr. H. W. Pickering, and Mr. W. F. Witherington. Old list: Mr. H. P. Briggs, Mr. C. L. Eastlake, Mr. C. R. Leslie, and Mr. T. Ewins.

Auditors re-elected.—Mr. W. Mulready, Mr. J. M. W. Turner, and Sir R. Westmacott.

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

THE COCKNEY CATECHISM,

ON
LONDON ONE LIE!

LESSON XLIX.

Aunt Margery. It is, indeed, very agreeable to me to observe, week after week, as I am about to leave the field, that I have not sown my seed in vain, but have stirred up a spirit which must do much for the benefit of the humbler classes and the good of the country long after I am silent.

Pri. It is truly gratifying; and Phil and I also feel it.

Phi. Well done, *Pri.* Give us all the credit we deserve.

Aunt M. My exposure of the base fabrications of wines for home-consumption has been beautifully illustrated in another channel.

Pri. How?

Aunt M. By shipping it for exportation, and getting the drawback of 5s. 9d. per gallon. A parcel has been seized and tested, and the result is, that the trash was not wine at all, or any admixture of it, worth half the amount of the drawback.

Pri. So the drawback would have been a capital price for it; and as soon as the vessel was in the Channel she might stave in all her casks, run her cargo into the sea, and have a light lading of staves for a costless adventure.

Phi. Or the old cargo would have done for a temperance-ship. Be drunk on the premises, and no oaths broken.

Aunt M. Do you know that winter is by far the most lucrative season for the sale of damaged goods?

Pri. It is the busiest time.

Aunt M. Ay, but independent of that, the gas-lamp light is of incalculable advantage to fraudulent traders. If the public were aware of it, there would be much fewer night shoppers and purchasers than there are.

Phi. But again, this seems to throw the burden, in spite of themselves, upon the working classes, who have not time to make their markets by daylight.

Aunt M. A very just remark, my dear, and applicable to all purchases by them of food or clothing. Saturday nights are the harvests of imposition.

Pri. More fruitful than even fine unintelligible attractive names, which draw people to the lights, like moths.

Phi. Some of them are funny! Here is a tailoring company called *Kierokosma*, who, in honour of the Greek, make clothes at an immense reduction (small clothes, I suppose, is meant), but for ready money only.

Pri. And here at the same place is a lady, Mrs. W. (not Kierok—what is it?), who has a patent for *Eusthenomorphic* belts and corsets. I hope they are easy, or one could not breathe the name in them.

Aunt M. You are trifling, children. Just look to the useful salatory (I wish they were regularly followed up) observations of the *Times* newspaper on my old grievance of loan societies.

Pri. What says the thunderer in aid of your lightning?

Aunt M. Why, that these swindling conspiracies (generally of two or three infamous money-lenders, taking also a fine title, and possessing a philanthropic purpose) are almost always in concert with persons of the class who bring discredit on the laws of the country, and disserve and ruin upon thousands of industrious citizens, viz. low and sharp attorneys, who live on the chances of actions and costs, holding the nominal Societies free of all charges.

Pri. This is indeed to let loose vampires upon the poor borrowers, their sureties, and society at large.

Aunt M. Many remedies against the fearful prey of these vampires have been suggested; but I think the only one is to lower the costs of law, and take away a temptation almost too great for even honest and feeling human nature, but irresistible to the needy and rascally scoundrels who infest the liberal profession. Why should not a debtor be sued for 5*l.* at the charge of 5*s.*, instead of two or three pounds? When this is answered, I shall end my lesson.

Metropolitan Destitution.—A letter from Mr. Arber in the *Times* of Wednesday corroborates our statement last Saturday of the junction of the new fund with the City Refuge for the Houseless, and for the ulterior objects we then mentioned. There are now in full operation, 1. the refuge in Play-house Yard, Whitecross Street, which receives 400, and relieves them with each a slice of bread. 2. In Glass-house Yard, St. George's in the East, for 300, and the same mode of saving them from starvation. 3. The west-end refuge, in Market Street, Edgware Road, which can take in 200, and grant apertains a half of beef-soup at night, a bed, and a breakfast of bread and milk [we would suggest a similarity of relief in all places as]

expedient]. We have also to point public attention to the Metropolitan Association whose advertisement appeared in our last number. Its objects seem to be most laudable; and we trust we shall be able in another *Gazette* to speak more fully of its plan and progress. It is our practice always to investigate (where possible) before we venture opinions.

VARIETIES.

Princess's.—A slight novelty brought out here on Thursday, the *Marriage-Certificate*, was, in spite of its improbability, borne triumphantly through by the talent of Mrs. Keeley, supported by her husband and Mr. W. Lacy.

The Prince's Almanac for 1843.—Another pretty little useful Annual, on pink paper, published by D. Cahn and W. Griffin. It contains, besides the usual matters for reference, illustrations of, and poetry on, the Prince of Wales, the Count of Paris, the Duke of Brabant, and the Thames Tunnel.

Stoddart and Connolly.—The journals are busily paragraphing up the hope that our countrymen are still living, which we sincerely pray they may be; but as the mission is on its way to ascertain the fact, we confess that we would rather not be fancy fed by these distant conjectures. One statement is, however, very consolatory—that the Sultan has himself addressed autograph letters to the rulers of Khiva and Bokhara by Dr. Wolff, exhorting them to release the prisoners, and treat the bearer with every consideration. The Grand Vizier and the Sheik-el-Islam have also written letters: those of the Sheik may be very important with the religious of Bokhara.

Aerial Machine.—Mr. Monck Mason's application of the Archimedes screw to aerial navigation has passed from Willis's rooms to the Adelaide Gallery. No account of the voyage is given; so we presume that the distance was not accomplished by the machine's own powers of locomotion. Probably the atmospheric currents of the streets, or a contrary wind, might have interfered with its progress; or probably it was found impracticable to fix a guide-line, for this is necessary to the advance of the model in a horizontal line. With such a restraint the machine—with screw rotating by clock-work in a right or left-handed spiral, and becoming either a propelling or a draught power—rapidly traverses the gallery backwards and forwards. The application is exceedingly ingenious, and is undoubtedly a stride towards practical ballooning. But out-door and in-door experiments, working scale and model scale, are widely different matters, and especially in reference to passage through the atmosphere. There is also exhibited a very clever contrivance by Mr. Green, for elevating or lowering a balloon without loss of ballast or escape of gas. This is likewise a section of the Archimedes screw, or rather two sections, arranged at angles of 22½°, something similar to the fan of a smoke-jack, and to be rotated, as in the former case, by man, steam, or electro-magnetic power in the balloon. The means of going up and down at will without waste of gas, and thus to reach different atmospheric strata, appears to us the most feasible mode to accomplish aerial navigation. The exhibition of these balloon-inventions is an interesting one: we cannot say the same for the Americanisms, Fleas, &c., of the gallery of Practical Science.

Jules Janin.—A report is in circulation* that this clever and popular author has committed suicide, according to the French fashion, by

* Since confirmed in Galignani.—*Ed. L. G.*

suffocating himself, and his wife at the same time, with the fumes of charcoal. Some inexplicable matters connected with theatrical direction are assigned as the cause.

John Claudius Loudon.—With deep and sincere sorrow do we record the death of this worthy, able, and celebrated author, aged sixty, at his residence in Bayswater, on Thursday last, between twelve and one o'clock, of chronic bronchitis, under which he had suffered for some time. He rose at his usual hour of six o'clock; but the disorder attacked him violently, and he sank at the time we have stated. He has left a widow, also celebrated in literature (as Miss Webb and Mrs. Loudon), and one only daughter. In a future *Gazette* a memoir of our late estimable friend will be given.

Lieut.-Col. Sir W. Thorn.—The author of the War in India, under Lord Lake, History of the Conquest of Java, and several other works, died at Neuwied, on the Rhine, on the 29th ult., of apoplexy, the attack of which he only survived two days.

Slavonic Newspaper.—Private letters from Belgrade mention the permission given by the Austrian government to publish a newspaper at Presburg in the Slovack language, as likely to produce much satisfaction among many of the people under its dominion. The Magyars, who are of Mongolian extraction, are situated in the midst of the Slovacks and the Illyrians, each of whom speaks a variation of the Slavonic language. The Magyar, or national Hungarian tongue, has no resemblance to either Slovack, Latin, or German, which have been the languages hitherto known in the north of Hungary, the Slovack spoken there closely resembling the Bohemian used in the vicinity of the Carpathian mountains. However, it has been forcibly introduced into the churches, schools, and public institutions, and the repeated concessions of Austria to the Magyar race have deeply offended the Croataus and other Slavonic people, and have tended to diminish the popularity of Austria in Servia. The new journal, which will be called the *Slovenski Narodne Novine* (Slovack National News), is hailed, therefore, as the sign of a reaction.

Amalgam of Sodium.—M. Henrici, according to an article in the *Annalen der Physik und Chemie*, has employed this compound of sodium and mercury as the positive element of a galvanic pair. As might have been expected, the effect in comparison with zinc was greatly enhanced, but the action was energetic only for a few minutes, and then ceased. We are acquainted with similar experiments with the alkaline metals made some time ago in England; but the results promised no useful application, and they remained as memoranda in the experimenter's note-book.

Tithometer.—An instrument invented by Professor Draper for measuring the "tithionic" rays, which, according to him, are found at a maximum in the indigo space, and which from that point gradually fade away to each end of the spectrum. It consists essentially of a mixture of equal measures of chlorine and hydrogen gases, evolved from and confined by a fluid which absorbs neither. This mixture is kept in a graduated tube, so arranged that the gaseous surface exposed to the rays never varies in extent, notwithstanding the contraction which may be going on in its volume, and the muratic acid resulting from its union is removed by rapid absorption.—*From Phil. Mag.*

Mount Etna.—Accounts of a considerable eruption of Etna have been received, by which some vineyards, noblemen's seats, and a large paper-manufactory, have been destroyed. The

lava took a northerly direction before reaching the town of Bronti; but the road between Catania and Palermo has been rendered impassable by the burning stratum deposited upon it.

New Zealand.—We lament to notice the accounts received from Nelson, New Zealand, of a rash conflict with the natives about some disputed land, in which a number of lives have been sacrificed. It is hoped that this untoward affair will not lead to any lasting enmity.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Dictionary of Practical Medicine, comprising General Pathology, the Nature and Treatment of Diseases, &c. &c., by J. Copland, M.D., F.R.S., Vols. I. and II., 3d.—Hansard's Parliamentary Debates for Session 1843, being Vols. 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, and 71, Third Series, 8v. 8s.—Lessons on Animals, Vegetables, and Minerals, by Mrs. Marcell, 18mo, 2s.—Memoir of the Union, and the Agitations for its Removal, by an Irish Catholic, 8vo, 2s. 6d.—Rules for the Decision of Courses, by T. Thacker, fep. 2s. 6d.—St. Patrick's Purgatory, by T. Wright, post 8vo, 6s.—Halliwell's Early History of Freemasonry in England, 2d edit., post 8vo, 2s. 6d.—Akerman's Coins of the Romans relating to Britain, 8vo, 10s. 6d.—Serious Dissuasives from Popery, with Introductory Essay by Rev. E. Nangle, 18mo, 3s.—Ancient and Modern Architecture, edited by Jules Gailhaud, 1st Series, 4to, 12s. 6d.—Chitty on Pleading, &c., 7th edit., by H. Green, 3 vols, royal 8vo, 4f. 10s.—Six Discourses by the Rev. J. Ridgway, fep. 5s.—Harry Mowbray, by Captain Knox, 8vo, 1s.—Wrongs of Women, by Charlotte Elizabeth, Part IV. Lace-Runners, 18mo, 2s. 6d.—Architectural Illustrations and Description of Kettering Church, by R. W. Billings, 4to, 10s. 6d.—Edinburgh Cabinet Library, Vol. 31, Voyages round the World since the Death of Captain Cook, fcp. 5s.—Men and Women, by the Author of "Susan Hopley," 3 v. 8vo, 11. 1s. 6d.—Whitefriars, or the Days of Charles the Second, 3 vols, post 8vo, 1. 11s. 6d.—Montagu and Ayrton's Law and Practice in Bankruptcy, 2 vols, 8vo, 2f. 2s.—Sir Robert Peel and his Era, 2d edit, post 8vo, 5s.—Arabella Stuart; a Romance, by G. P. R. James, 3 vols, post 8vo, 11. 1s. 6d.—Nursery Rhymes of England, collected by J. O. Halliwell, 3d edit, fcp. 4s. 6d.—Tales of the Great and Brave, by Miss M. F. Tytler, 2d Series, 12mo, 5s.—Home Treasury: Jack and the Bean-Staff, new edit, sq. 2s.; 3s. 6d. coloured. Home Treasury: Ballads of Chevy Chase, 2s. 6d.; 4s. 6d. coloured.—Brief Memoir of Sir Clement Wemyss, Knt., by G. Duke, 3s.—A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, fep. 8vo, 5s.—History of Frederick the Great, by F. Kugler, translated by E. A. Moriarty, royal 8vo, 2s.—School Music, or Songs and Hymns from the Singing-Master, 8vo, 5s. 6d.

DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.

[This table shews the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

	1843.	h. m. a.	1843.	h. m. a.
Dec. 16 . . .	11 55 40 2		Dec. 20 . . .	11 57 39 0
17 . . .	— 56 9 6		21 . . .	— 58 9 1
18 . . .	— 56 39 2		22 . . .	— 58 39 1
19 . . .	— 57 9 0			

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

—We would call the attention of our readers to the letter in this *Gazette* on the subject of Assyrian antiquities. The revelations from Nineveh appear to us to be deeply interesting; and, in unison with the Egyptian discoveries, which we have now almost weekly to describe, as it were unburying the Old World for our contemplation and instruction.—*Ed. Lit. Gaz.*

We shall have great pleasure in relating the particulars of the recent Ministerial recognition of the valuable services of the late Capt. Weddell in our next *Gazette*. They are so honourable to all concerned, that we must regret our indifferent health at the time, and ignorance of the details, prevented us from doing so in the first instance.

In the running account of periodical publications in last *Literary Gazette*, we learn that we were in error in ascribing the cessation of *Chapman's Magazine* to any failure in the plan, as it was occasioned altogether by a decision of the post-office, which prohibited the transmission of the Magazine (being over 2 oz., and not by any effort reducible to a lesser weight) without the heavy charge of five penny stamps, which effectively operated against provincial circulation. Mr. C. we understand, has transferred the continued contributions of the most popular authors (thus officially cut off) into the columns of his *Sunday newspaper*.

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25	£1	2	2	2	1	9	9	11	11	11
35	1	9	9	9	9	6	2	3	3	8
45	2	1	0	2	14	10	8	4	2	6
55	3	11	1	4	10	9	10	5	6	10
60	4	8	11	5	17	4	7	5	9	14

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Every information will be afforded on application to the Resident Directors, Edward Boyd, Esq., and E. Lennox Boyd, Esq., of No. 8 Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London.

Frederick Hale Thomson, Esq., Surgeon, 48 Berners Street, at the Office the daily, about half past Two o'clock.

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW,

No. CXLV.

Will be published next week,

CONTENTS:

- I. The Vaudois Church, and the King of Sardinia.
- II. Life of William Taylor, of Norwich—Correspondence with Sotheby's.
- III. Campaigns on the Bourbons.
- IV. College Life, and College Debt.
- V. Discoveries by the Officers of the Hudson's Bay Company.
- VI. Letters from the American States.
- VII. Biographies of German Ladies.
- VIII. Prescott's Conquest of Mexico.
- IX. The Guillotine.

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